

**IMPROVED TECHNIQUES FOR SPATIAL REPRESENTATION OF DATA  
AND BROWSING BASED ON SIMILARITY**

Hawley K. Rising III

**5    ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

          The present invention provides improved techniques  
for spatial representation of data and browsing based  
on similarity. For example, improved techniques for  
spatial representation of image data and browsing the  
10 image data based on the similarities (or  
dissimilarities) of the images are provided. In one  
embodiment, a hierarchical MultiDimensional Scaling  
(MDS) database for a set of images is provided, which  
allows for computationally efficient querying and  
15 updating of an image database. In one embodiment,  
techniques for modifying an MDS database for images are  
provided to allow for more intuitive browsing (or  
searching) of the images.

: